



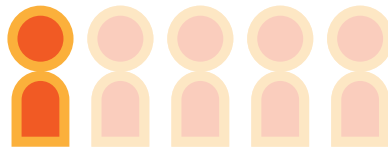
# SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# SNAP **AKA** BASIC FOOD

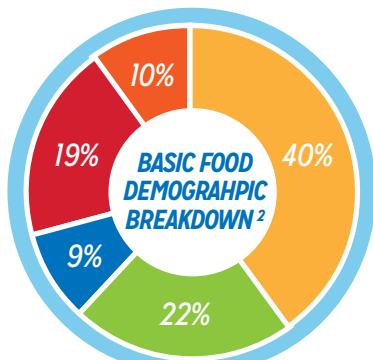
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), known as Basic Food in Washington state, is our state's number-one defense against hunger.

## WHY IS BASIC FOOD NEEDED?

**1 IN 5** WA Kids  
lives in a household that struggles with hunger <sup>1</sup>



## WHO DOES BASIC FOOD REACH?



**1 IN 6** People  
16% of the Population <sup>2</sup>

- Non-disabled Non Elderly Adults w/out children
- Disabled Adults
- Children
- Adults living with children
- Elderly

## BASIC FOOD IS EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE

### LONG-TERM BENEFITS



- Improves high school completion rates by 18 points <sup>3</sup>



- Reduces obesity by 16%, heart disease by 5%, and stunted growth by 6% <sup>3</sup>

### RISK OF UNDER OR OVERPAYMENT & FRAUD IS LOW

**2.4%**  
benefits error

- Only 2.4% of Basic Food benefits are issued in error, meaning too many or too few <sup>4</sup>

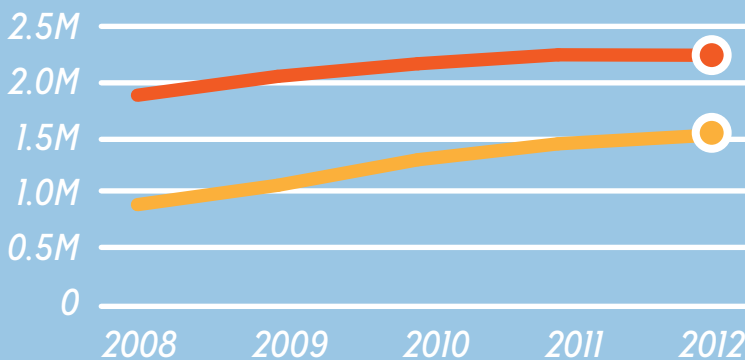
VS

**16.9%**  
income tax error

- By contrast, the error rate for federal income taxes—taxes due but unpaid—is 16.9% <sup>5</sup>

## RESPONDS WELL TO INCREASES IN NEED

Basic Food Caseload Compared to Population Below 200% FPL, 2008-2012



- Basic Food's flexible funding structure allowed the program to adjust to increases in need during the Great Recession <sup>6</sup>

- Basic Food Caseload
- People under 200% poverty

## BASIC FOOD COULD BE STRENGTHENED

### BENEFITS ARE MEAGER

- Average monthly Basic Food/SNAP benefit for each household member: \$118, or \$1.31 per meal <sup>2</sup>
- 3/4 of families use all of their benefits by the third week of every month <sup>7</sup>



### IMMIGRANT FAMILIES GET EVEN LESS

Certain lawfully present immigrants that do not qualify for federal food assistance can qualify for state funded food assistance (SFA). <sup>8</sup> However, the benefit rate is 25 percent less for these children and families. More than...

**15,000**

immigrant children and their families benefit from state funded food assistance in Washington state. <sup>4</sup>

### A FAMILY OF THREE EARNING \$1,000 PER MONTH WOULD RECEIVE...

#### STATE FUNDED FOOD ASSISTANCE

\$158 a month or \$1.76 per meal for the whole family. <sup>9</sup>



#### FEDERALLY FUNDED FOOD ASSISTANCE

\$211 a month or \$2.34 per meal for the whole family. <sup>9</sup>

### BASIC FOOD PUTS MONEY BACK INTO WASHINGTON STATE

**EVERY \$1**

GENERATES \$1.70 IN  
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY <sup>2</sup>

**SNAP  
BENEFITS**

**\$1.7 BILLION**

INTO WASHINGTON STATES  
ECONOMY IN 2013 <sup>2</sup>

*Basic Food benefits can only be used to purchase food at one of the 4,900 authorized retail stores in WA <sup>2</sup>*

#### SOURCES

1. Washington KIDS COUNT analysis of 2012 American Community Survey data. 2. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. "Washington Basic Food Program Factsheet." 3. Hoynes, Schanzenbach, and Almond. "Long Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net." National Bureau of Economic Research, November 2012. 4. Economic Services Briefing Book for State Fiscal Year 2013, Washington State. 5. Internal Revenue Service. "Tax Gap for Tax Year 2006, Overview," January 6, 2012. 6. B&PC analysis of American Community Survey data and caseload data from the Administration of Children and Families and Washington State DSHS. 7. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. "Chart Book: SNAP Helps Struggling Families Put Food on the Table." 8. State Funded Food Assistance serves three groups of immigrants that are ineligible for federal food assistance: legal immigrants with a green card who have been in the US for less than 5 years, People Residing Under Color of the Law or PRUCOL, which includes people who have been victims of domestic abuse and are assisting law enforcement, and people who are citizens of countries with Compacts of Free Association (COFA) with the US - Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau. 9. B&PC analysis of SNAP benefits. Benefit is maximum benefit for family of 3 for FY 2015, or \$511, minus 30% of monthly income. SFA is 75% of SNAP benefit.